

TRANSLATION

OF

GERMAN SEARCH REPORT

DATED February 9, 2004

Relating to

German Patent Application No. 103 14 181.2

German Patent and Trademark Office - 80297 Munich

Your request of: March 28, 2003

for a search in accordance with Art. 43 Patent Act

Please quote file reference and applicant/ proprietor in all submissions and payments

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File Ref: 103 14 181.2

Search Report**A. Classification of the subject of the application in accordance with the International Patent Classification (IPC)**

IPC 07

B 24 C 9/00**B. Fields searched**

Class/Group

B 24 C 9/00

Examiner

WERNER HOBEL

Patent Department

14**B 24 C 9/00**

The search in the German Patent and Trademark Office is based on the patent literature of the following countries and organisations:

Germany (DE, DD (East and West)), Austria, Switzerland, France, Great Britain, USA, Japan (Abstracts), USSR (Abstracts), European Patent Office, WIPO.

The search was carried out in the following databases:

Name of the database and of the host

DEPATIS

Classes/Groups which are listed in Section A, but are not expressly mentioned in Section B, were either found by a cross-IPC search or only serve as documentation and information. Classes listed in Section B, but not named in Section A, were searched with the results set forth in Section C.

C. Results of the search for printed documents

Cat.	Printed documents found	Annotations	Related claims	IPC/Sources
Y	DE 101 20 473 C1	Fig.	2	
Y	DE 102 30 396 A1	Claim 6	1, 3	B 24 C 9/00

Mail Receiving Dept. and
 Night Letterbox:
 Only
 Zweibrückenstr. 12

Office Buildings
 Zweibrückenstr. 2 (Main building)
 Zweibrückenstr. 5-7 (Breiterhof)
 Mark Departments:
 81534 Munich
 Cincinnatistr. 64

Address (for freight)
 German Patent and Trademark Office
 Zweibrückenstr. 12
 80331 Munich

Phone (089) 2195-0
 Telefax (089) 2195-2221
 Internet <http://www.dpma.de>

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Zweibrückenstr. 12 (Main building),
 Zweibrückenstr. 5-7 (Breiterhof):

| Cincinnatistrasse:
 | S2 Fasangarten

D. The following literature and citations are not available to the German Patent and Trademark Office:

The search cannot extend to cover a state of the art which is quoted by the applicant himself, but which is not available to the German Patent and Trademark Office. If it is intended to make an Examination Request in accordance with Article 44 Patent Act, the applicant is requested to submit this literature to the examination file as a copy.

E. Date of the completion of the search: February 4, 2004

Completeness of the findings:

No guarantee can be given for the completeness of the findings of the relevant documents or for the correctness of the categories quoted (Article 43 (7) 1 Patent Act or Article 7 (2) Utility Model Act in conjunction with Article 43 (7) 1 Patent Act).

Date the search report was sent

Enclosures: 2

Patent Department 1.11
Central Search Office

(Seal)

Notes on Section C. Results of the search for printed documents.

Column: Cat(egory)

Meaning:

- X:** Documents which on their own make novelty or inventive step (Article 43 Patent Act) / inventive activity (Article 7 Utility Model Act) questionable
- Y:** Documents which together with other documents make an inventive step (Article 43 Patent Act) / inventive activity (Article 7 Utility Model Act) questionable
- A:** General prior art, technological background
- O:** Non-written disclosure, e.g. a speech which was given publicly before the application date or priority date and was printed in a later published document
- P:** Documents published in the priority interval
- T:** Later published non-colliding documents which relate to the theory of the invention for which application has been made, and which could be useful for a better understanding of the invention for which application has been made, or which show that the conceptual steps or circumstances on which the invention of the application is based could be incorrect
- E:** Older applications in accordance with Article 3 (2) Patent Act (on searches in accordance with Article 43 of the Patent Act); older patent applications or older utility models in accordance with Article 15 of the Utility Model Act (on searches in accordance with Article 7 of the Utility Model Act)
- D:** Documents which are already named in the Patent application (on searches in accordance with Article 43 of the Patent Act)/documents which were already named in the application or in the utility model (on searches in accordance with Article 7 of the Utility Model Act)
- L:** Documents which are named for special reasons, e.g. in relation to the date of publication of a citation or if doubts exist concerning the priority.

Column: Annotations

The annotations and relevant passages cited in the search process are recited separately from the cited publication in this column. The abbreviations and symbols used in the naming of a document mean:

Publ.: Publication of a document in the priority interval

=: Documents which can be attributed to the same originating application ("patent families") or documents to which references or abstracts relate

In class/group citations where no documents are named, the symbol

"-": means: Nothing found

Column 3: Rel(ated) claims

The claims are set forth here in association with the remarks made in the column "Annotations".

Notes on the patent literature:

The quoted patent literature can be studied in the Publication Halls of the German Patent Office, 80331 München, Zweibrückenstr. 12 or 10969 Berlin, Gitschiner Str. 97; German patent specifications, published patent applications or laying-open prints and in some cases also the patent literature of other countries can also be seen in the Patent Information Centres. A list of these Centres can be obtained from the German Patent and Trademark Office and also from some private companies.

Online searches of patent publications from all over the world which are located in the data records of the internal official German patent information system (DEPATIS) are possible at no cost at <http://www.depatis.net>.